

RAD and HT



The Link Between Attachment Disorder & Human Trafficking

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Definition of Reactive Attachment Disorder

- **DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR 318.89**
- **REACTIVE ATTACHMENT DISORDER OF INFANCY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD**
- A. Markedly disturbed and developmentally inappropriate social relatedness in
 - most contexts, beginning before age five years, as evidenced by either (1) or (2):
 - **(1) persistent failure to initiate or respond in a developmentally appropriate fashion to most social interactions as manifest by excessively inhibited, hyper vigilant, or highly ambivalent and**
 - contradictory responses (e.g., the child may respond to caregivers with a mixture of approach, avoidance, and resistance to comforting, or may exhibit frozen watchfulness)

Definition of Reactive Attachment Disorder Continued

(2) diffuse attachments as manifest by indiscriminate sociability with marked inability to exhibit appropriate selective attachments (e.g., excessive familiarity with relative strangers or lack of selectivity in choice of attachment figures)

**Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition
(DSM-IV)**

Bowlby's Attachment Theory:

1. A child has an innate (i.e. inborn) **need to attach** to one main attachment figure
2. A child should receive the **continuous care** of this single most important attachment figure for approximately the first two years of life.



Bowlby's Attachment Theory: (Continued)

3. The **long term consequences of maternal deprivation** might include the following:

- ▣ • *delinquency,*
- ▣ • *reduced intelligence,*
- ▣ • *increased aggression,*
- ▣ • *depression,*
- ▣ • *affectionless psychopathy*



4. The child's attachment relationship with their primary caregiver leads to the development of an **internal working model**.

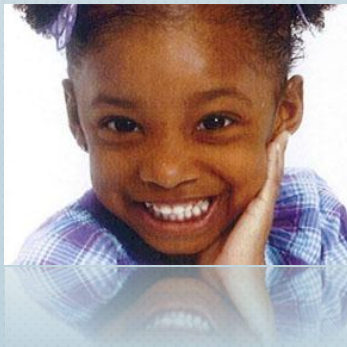
Children with secure attachments believe:

- ▣ The world is a safe, good place most of the time.
- ▣ They can count on adults to meet their needs.
- ▣ If they have a problem, there are people who will help them with it.
- ▣ Their choices make a difference.
- ▣ They matter to other people. They are loveable.
- ▣ If they try hard enough, they can accomplish things that will bring them success and happiness.

Five Developmental Stages

(Source: *Growing Up Again* By Jean Clarke & Connie Dawson & *Getting the Love You Want* By Harville Hendrix)

1. Attachment: Conception – 2 years - Sense of Being
2. Exploration: 1 year – 3 years – Sense of Well- being
3. Identity: 3 years – 5 years - Sense of Self
4. Competence: 5 years – 8 years – Sense of Self-worth
5. Relationship: 8 years – 12 years – Sense of Self-acceptance



Internal Messages for Healthy Development

Birth to age Three:

- ▣ I am wanted
- ▣ I am welcomed
- ▣ It is safe to grow, be born, and to live
- ▣ I am cared for
- ▣ I exist
- ▣ I am loveable
- ▣ I am safe
- ▣ My needs are important and will be met
- ▣ I can be separate
- ▣ I can explore my world
- ▣ I am celebrated when I discover new things

Internal Messages for Healthy Development:

Three Years to Five Years

- I am OK as I am
- I am important
- I can discover who I am

Ages Five to Eight

- I am adequate
- I can know what I can do

Eight to Twelve Years:

- I am accepted
- I belong
- I am likeable

To be “good enough” a parent needs a combination of the following:

- ❑ the understanding that from the eyes of a child, “I am who I think you think I am.”
- ❑ attunement.
- ❑ to be a “safe holding environment” for mind and body.
- ❑ [The Still Face Experiment – A Video](#)

Attachment Disturbance

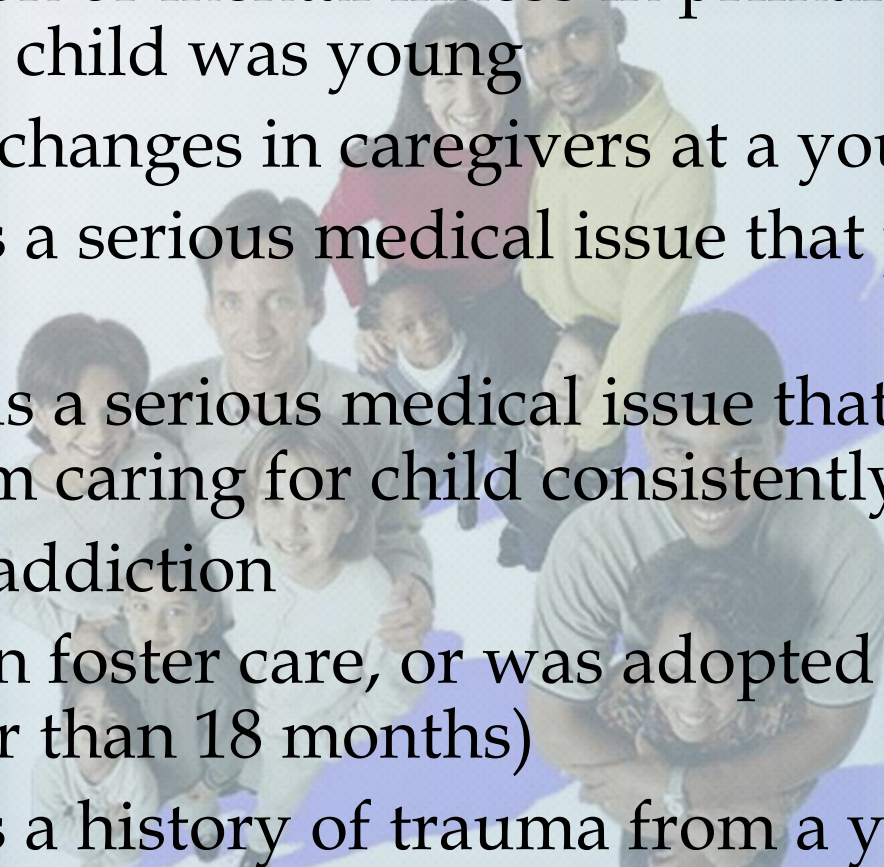
The inability to see the usefulness of caregivers.

The worldview that people are not trustworthy or caring.

The belief that “I need to meet my own needs.”

The belief that my choices do not make a difference to anyone else.

Risk factors for insecure/disorganized attachment:

- ✓ Depression or mental illness in primary caregiver while the child was young
 - ✓ Multiple changes in caregivers at a young age
 - ✓ Child has a serious medical issue that prevents bonding
 - ✓ Parent has a serious medical issue that prevents them from caring for child consistently
 - ✓ Parental addiction
 - ✓ Child is in foster care, or was adopted at an older age (older than 18 months)
 - ✓ Child has a history of trauma from a young age
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Reactive Attachment Disorder

RAD is frequently seen in children who have inconsistent, abusive, or neglectful care in their early childhood, including children adopted from orphanages or foster care

Neglect

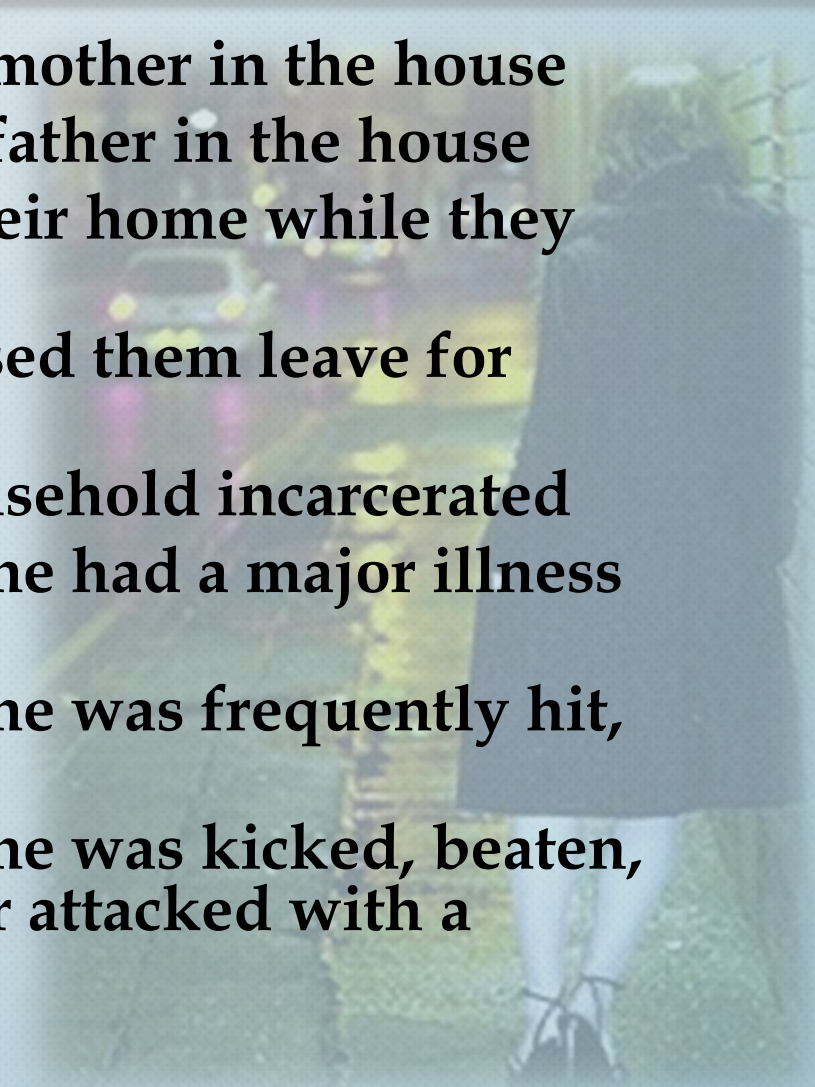
1. Absence of experience
2. Mistiming of experience
3. Chaotic exposure of experience

Bruce Perry, PhD.

- Up to 90% of Sex Trafficking Victims experience sexual abuse first in the home
- Many are from foster care

Trafficking Victim Profile

- ▣ 25% grew up without a mother in the house
- ▣ 59% grew up without a father in the house
- ▣ 40% someone died in their home while they were growing up
- ▣ 22% the person who raised them leave for more than one year
- ▣ 33% someone in the household incarcerated
- ▣ 27% someone in the home had a major illness or disability
- ▣ 62% someone in the home was frequently hit, slapped, pushed
- ▣ 40% someone in the home was kicked, beaten, raped, threatened and/or attacked with a weapon



Trafficking Victim Profile Cont.

- ▣ 83% drug or alcohol abuse in home
- ▣ 86% used drugs or alcohol themselves
- ▣ 56% ran away from home at least once, mean age 13
- ▣ 28% were told to leave home by parent or guardian, mean age 15
- ▣ 33% someone in home in prostitution regularly
- ▣ 71% people in the neighborhood or friends in prostitution regularly
- ▣ 71% someone suggested to them they should become a prostitute
- ▣ 65 – 80% victims of child sexual abuse, rape, or incest
- ▣ 50 – 75% victims of physical abuse as a child

Note: the parents of RAD children and Sex Trafficked children have the same family issues

Effects of RAD and Possible Correlations To HT Victims

Children who do not get the crucial internal messages they need are left feeling:

Insignificant

Small

Devalued

Worthless

Powerless

Sex Trafficked Victims report that they lack internal Healthy Development Messages which makes them more vulnerable to be trafficked and re-trafficked.

RAD Effects on Emotional Self and Behaviors

To the child whose emotional needs are not met, the world is unsafe and terrifying. Their life feels out of control. If they are to survive, they need to develop skills to cope with their environment.

They become:

Self absorbed
Self centered
Controlling
Survivors

Long Term Effects of RAD

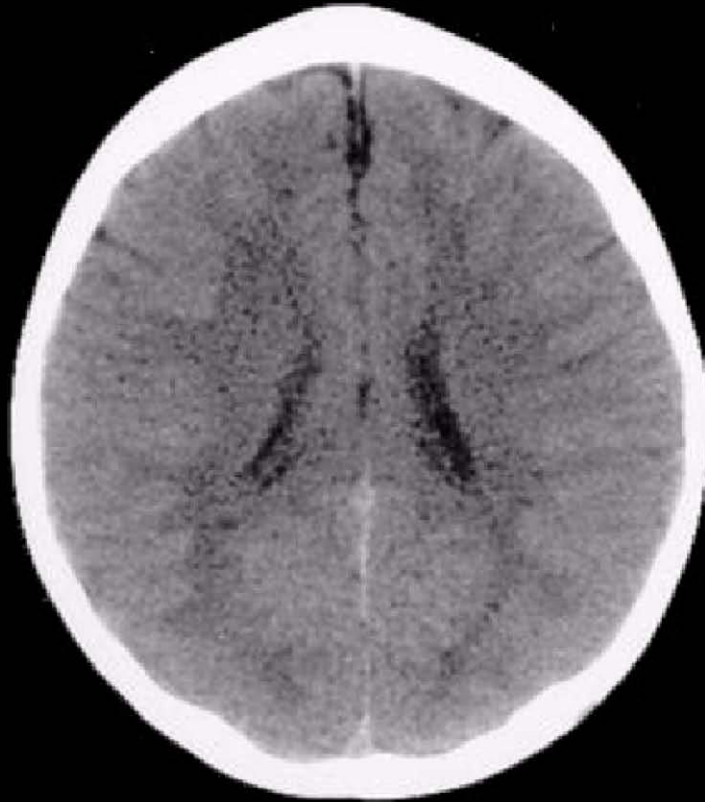
Because these children feel unlovable, they become more vulnerable to traffickers and less able to discern safe and unsafe people. Love becomes the primary need at any cost.

Long Term Effects of Trauma and Neglect on Brain Development

- ❖ When a child is neglected and abused, his brain develops in survival mode, or style, to help him stay safe. When a child is “wired” for survival, it results in being anxious, acting from instinct instead of reason, and not being able to easily identify his feelings.

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Victims are wired for survival at any cost. Many start off as runaways and are lured into trafficking because of their need to attach. The trafficker provides basic needs (food, clothes, shelter) for survival

3 Year Old Children



Normal



Extreme Neglect

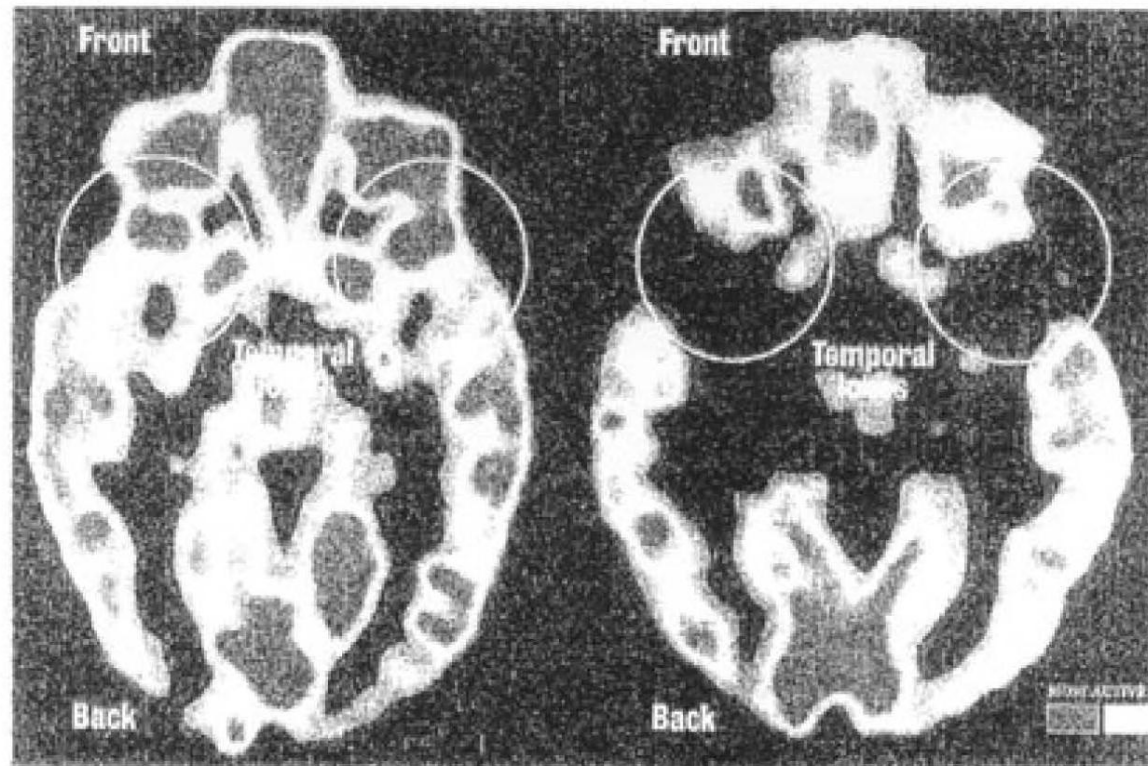
CIVITAS ChildTrauma Programs

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These images illustrate the negative impact of **neglect** on the developing brain. In the CT scan on the left is an image from a healthy three year old with an average head size. The image on the right is from a three year old child suffering from **severe sensory-deprivation neglect**. This child's brain is significantly smaller than average and has abnormal development of cortex.

Effect of extreme deprivation



Healthy Child

Neglected Child

Healthy Child

Neglected Child

Reactive Attachment Disorder Symptoms

- *Superficially engaging and charming*
- *Indiscriminately affectionate with strangers*
- *Destructive to material things and self*
- *Lack of cause and effect thinking*
- *Stealing*
- *Not taking any responsibility for actions (blame shifting)*
- *Crazy lying about the obvious*
- *Trouble with peer relationships*
- *Lack of conscience*
- *Cruelty to animals*

Reactive Attachment Disorder Symptoms

- *Not affectionate on parent's terms*
- *Controlling*
- *Clingy*
- *Lack of self control/impulse control*
- *Learning lags*
- *ADD/ADHD*
- *Unusual eating patterns/hoarding*
- *Obsessed with fire, blood and gore*
- *Fake and phony (not real)*
- *Excessive chatter and nonsense questions*
- *False allegations of abuse*

RAD children do not display every symptom.

Statistics

- ❖ There were 408,425 children in foster care in the US as of September 30, 2010
- ❖ Children in foster care have an average of three placements
- ❖ Depending on the city 50-80% of children victims of human trafficking are, or have been in the foster care system.

Relationship between RAD and Sex Trafficking

Many emotional and behavioral characteristics are similar in children with RAD and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Victims

It appears a correlation can be made between children who have RAD and Human Trafficking victims, as Traffickers exploit and prey on the vulnerable.

The need to attach to a person is inborn and needs to be met. That need if unmet does not disappear but becomes a stronger need. The teen with RAD has less ability to differentiate safe from unsafe people and is in survival mode all the time.

Research is needed to determine the correlation between children who have RAD and Human Trafficking Victims.

Five Ways to help move someone from victim to survivor:

1. Create an environment of safety.
2. Help them to attach to someone in the family (if possible).
3. Help them attach to a surrogate family if necessary.
4. Address the worthless and unlovable place by teaching value, worth and future possibilities in this world.
5. Help clients with self forgiveness.